

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 COTONO 00721 161047Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 SCS-06 /025 W  
-----111290 171348Z /50  
R 161020Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 739  
USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS COTONOU 721

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: BDIS, BGEN, DM  
SUBJ: TRADE ASSISTANCE: TRANSWORLD INDUSTRIAL SYSTEMS LTD.

REF: A. USDOC 8820 B. STATE 121406 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY INQUIRIES HAVE PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:  
THE TRANSWORLD SHIPMENT WAS UNLOADED IN COTONOU LAST AUGUST  
AND IS CURRENTLY IN STORAGE HERE. THE SHIPPING AGENT IN COTONOU  
FOR THE MERCHANDISE IS SEVEN SEAS SHIPPING COMPANY, WHICH IS AT  
THE CENTER OF A MAJOR BENINESE FINANCIAL SHIPPING SCANDAL  
INVOLVING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. THUS, ALL GOODS ASSOCIATED WITH  
SEVEN SEAS ARE FROZEN, AWAITING DECISION OF A PRESIDENTIAL  
COMMISSION.

3. SONATRAC OFFICIALS CONFIRMED TO COMMERCIAL OFFICER THAT  
THE SOLE REASON FOR IMPOUNDMENT OF GOODS IS ASSOCIATION WITH  
SEVEN SEAS. HOWEVER, ALL OFFICIALS ARE WORKING UNDER THE FEAR  
OF ARREST AND ARE UNWILLING TO PUT THEIR NAMES TO EVEN THE MOST  
INNOCENT LETTER. ONE SUCH AS THAT REQUESTED BY TRANSWORLD  
WILL HAVE TO COME FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE INVESTIGATING  
COMMISSION. HOWEVER, DUE TO THE SECRECY SURROUNDING THE COMMISSION,  
SUCH A LETTER MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN.

4. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO CONTACT THE COMMISSION.  
HOWEVER, WE CANNOT SAY HOW LONG THE GOVERNMENT WILL HOLD ON  
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TO THE TRANSWORLD MERCHANDISE. THOMPSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978COTON000721  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780207-1051  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TRADE ASSISTANCE: TRANSWORLD INDUSTRIAL SYSTEMS LTD.  
**TAGS:** BDIS, BGEN, DM  
**To:** STATE COM  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/9c55c19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
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